

## The Molecatcher

The image shows the musical notation for the song 'The Molecatcher'. It consists of two staves of music in G major and 6/8 time. The first staff is labeled 'Verse' and contains the following chords: D7, C, D7, C, G, D7, C, D7. The second staff is labeled 'Chorus' and contains the following chords: G, C, D7, G. The melody is written in treble clef with eighth and quarter notes.

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| <p>1. In Wellington town<br/>at the sign of the plough<br/>There lived a molecatcher,<br/>shall I tell you how?<br/><b>Chorus</b><br/>Singing to rel i day fol di lie<br/>Laddie lie laddie di day</p> <p>2. He'd go a molecatching<br/>from morning to night<br/>And a young fellow came<br/>for to play with his wife.<br/><b>Chorus</b></p> <p>3. The molecatcher was jealous<br/>of this very thing<br/>He hid in the wash house<br/>to see him come in.<br/><b>Chorus</b></p> <p>4. He saw the young fellow<br/>come over the stile<br/>Which caused the molecatcher<br/>so crafty to smile.<br/><b>Chorus</b></p> <p>5. He knocked on the door<br/>and thus he did say<br/>"Where is your husband,<br/>good woman, I pray?"<br/><b>Chorus</b></p> <p>6. "He's gone a-molecatching,<br/>you need never fear"<br/>But little did she think<br/>the molecatcher was near.<br/><b>Chorus</b></p> | <p>7. She went up the stairs<br/>and gave him the sign<br/>And the molecatcher followed them<br/>quickly behind.<br/><b>Chorus</b></p> <p>8. And while the young fellow<br/>was up to his frolics<br/>The molecatcher caught him<br/>right fast by his ballocks.<br/><b>Chorus</b></p> <p>9. The trap it squeezed tighter,<br/>which caused him to smile<br/>Saying, "Here's the best mole<br/>that I've caught in a while".<br/><b>Chorus</b></p> <p>10. "I'll make you pay dearly<br/>for tilling my ground<br/>And the money it'll cop you<br/>no less than ten pound".<br/><b>Chorus</b></p> <p>11. "Ten pound," says the young fellow,<br/>"That I don't mind<br/>It only works out<br/>about tuppence a grind".<br/><b>Chorus</b></p> <p>12. So come all you young fellows<br/>and mind what you're at<br/>And don't get 'em caught<br/>in the molecatcher's trap.<br/><b>Chorus</b></p> |
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"The Molecatcher" is a bawdy song well known in the British Isles.

A.L. Lloyd recorded "The Molecatcher" in 1966 for his album **The Best of A.L. Lloyd**.

His notes from the album:

"This sly song of the biter bit amused the composer Ralph Vaughan Williams who noted some fine versions of it in Norfolk. Two folklorish parsons, Baring-Gould and Fleetwood Sheppard heard it on bleak Dartmoor and it struck them as "very gross", so they wrote new words to it that have none of the wit and pungency of the original. Their version may be found in **Songs of the West**. Our version is from an unpublished set provided by Dr. Vaughan Williams."

Ewan MacColl sang "The Molecatcher" in 1972 on **Solo Flight** and Peter Bellamy learned it from Vaughan Williams' **Norfolk Collection** via A.L. Lloyd and sang it on his 1983 cassette **Fair Annie**.

The Irish Rovers recorded a cleaned-up version of it on **The Life of the Rover** (1969).

Steve Roud included "The Molecatcher" in 2012 in **The New Penguin Book of English Folk Songs**. It is listed in the **Roud Folk Song Index** as #1052.